

6 March 1973

Lt. General Robert E. Pursley, USAF
Commander, U.S. Forces Japan
Commander, 5th Air Force
PACAF
APO San Francisco 96525

Dear Bob:

In every bureaucracy there is always someone late in getting the word. I had known that you were going to Japan to be the Deputy Chief of the 5th Air Force. I learned during a recent visit to CINCPAC that this was a temporary assignment, measured in days, and that soon after arrival you became -- and now are -- Commander of the 5th Air Force as well as Commander of U.S. Forces in Japan.

My belated but nonetheless sincere congratulations on this promotion. I cannot claim to be surprised since it has been obvious to me for a long time that you were clearly destined for positions of progressively greater responsibility in the military service. I am nonetheless delighted for you (and for the Air Force) to see you assuming so promptly levels of responsibility within your parent service commensurate with the abilities your friends have long known that you possessed.

The hours you have to spend in running the 5th Air Force and our Japanese military establishment are probably not markedly better than those you had to log working for the Secretary. On the other hand,

even though the hours may not have appreciably improved, the management of them should be easier when supported by a retinue of excellent Japanese servants in a fashion that, I trust, contributes to domestic tranquility within the Pursley household.

As you know, working with you over these past six-plus years was a great pleasure which I hope will be repeated in some subsequent incarnation. Again, congratulations on your richly deserved promotion and best wishes in all of your new duties. When you next come to Washington, please give me a call. I would be delighted to have you out to the Agency for lunch and would be quite disappointed if I missed seeing you while you were in town.

Regards.

As always,



George A. Carver, Jr.

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